

**PERMANENT EXPORT OF HORSES TO HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
(HKSAR) OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 382EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 382EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. **Scope**

Export health certificate 382EHC is in two parts, 382EHC - Part A, and 382CON - Part B. It may be used to accompany horses intended for permanent export to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of People's Republic Of the China. If horses are **resident in more than one tripartite country or the Republic of South Africa during the 60 days preceding export**, the 382SUP will need to be completed for each country of residence and be attached to 382EHC and 382CON. 382EHC must be signed by the certifying OV on the basis of support certificates obtained from the countries in which the horse has been resident during the previous 60 days. Horses being exported to Hong Kong on a temporary basis should be accompanied by health certificate 2300EHC.

The certificate can no longer be used if horses have been partly resident during the 60 days in any other Member State of the European Union (including Denmark, Germany, and Italy, which were previously deemed to be 'scheduled' countries for this purpose). In the case of origin in the Republic of South Africa, the horse has to be continuously resident in the UK for at least 30 days prior to export to Hong Kong.

It is not permitted to export horses and other equines from Great Britain for slaughter. This applies to journeys from, and transit journeys through, Great Britain to destinations outside the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs should apply the OV stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with an OV stamp in any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

Under the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, it is an offence to export horses and other equines for slaughter, beginning

in or transiting through Great Britain to a third country.

If the OV has suspicions that the consignment is being exported for slaughter in contravention of section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024, this should be reported as soon as possible to APHA by calling 03000 200 301. In your report, please detail the following:

- EHC and journey log reference number
- Location and address of inspection, including CPH number
- Name and address of transporter and journey organiser
- Transporter authorisation number
- Details of the animals in the consignment (number, species, age)
- The reason for your concern
- Any relevant additional information

Certified Copy Requirements – England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: provision of certified copies

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the Department where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible – for example, where

'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

Important: All pages of the certificate must be endorsed (initialed, stamped and dated, in ink other than black) by the certifying Official Veterinarian.

3. **Identification**

Paragraph I. must be fully completed. The Official Veterinarian must verify the identity of the horse by reference to its passport. The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the horse is adequately identified each time that samples are taken for pre-export testing and at the time of inspection.

4. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraph III a) refers. The Official Veterinarian should carry out the final clinical examination and complete the export health certificate within 24 hours of export. However, the certificate is valid for 72 hours prior to the scheduled departure (by air). If the flight is delayed for more than 72 hours after this examination, re-inspection (eg at the airport) will be required. In this case, the exporter must contact AFCD to establish how the certificate should be annotated after the re-inspection and the certifying OV informed accordingly.

5. **Approval of pre-export quarantine (PEQ) / isolation premises**

Paragraph III. b) refers. The pre-export isolation premises must be approved by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department, prior to the start of pre-export isolation. The following conditions must be met for the premises to be approved:

5.1 **Construction and location**

- a) The isolation premises must be a clearly demarcated area surrounded by a stock proof wall or fence and containing suitable facilities for the accommodation and exercise of the animals during the isolation period.
- b) The use of exercise facilities outside the premises may be permitted under the direction of the Official Veterinarian, after consultation with the DVM. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that the isolation status of the consignment is maintained at all times. If the exercise facilities are used by non-export horses, the isolated horses must use the facilities first each day and must be cleared from the area before non-export status horses are allowed access to the facilities.
- c) The premises should have facilities for veterinary examination and collection of samples and facilities for the segregation of sick or suspect horses.
- d) The access to the premises should be controlled and secure.
- e) The location should be as remote as possible from other premises

containing equidae. In making a decision as to the suitability of the location of the isolation premises, the VO/ Official Veterinarian should take into consideration the epidemiology of the diseases for which certification is being provided, in particular with respect to the distance and presence of physical barriers between the isolation premises and other premises.

- f) All drainage must be away from the isolation premises.
- g) Isolation buildings should be capable of being effectively cleaned and disinfected.
- h) An adequate supply of water must be available at all times for the isolated horses and for cleaning purposes.
- i) Adequate supplies of food and bedding material for the whole of the isolation period must be stored either within the isolation premises or in a nearby secure and separate store.
- j) Equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be used only in the isolation premises during the isolation period.
- k) Protective clothing and footwear to be used exclusively in the isolation premises must be available at the entrance to the isolation premises.
- l) There should be adequate facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles, either on or near to the isolation premises.

5.2 **Procedures**

- a) Immediately before the commencement of the isolation period, the isolation buildings, all fixed and moveable equipment and utensils used for feeding, grooming and cleaning must be disinfected, unless new, using a disinfectant approved by DEFRA, to the satisfaction of the supervising Official Veterinarian. Exercise areas/paddocks should be cleaned to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian.
- b) No person may enter the isolation premises unless specifically authorised by the supervising Official Veterinarian.
- c) No staff supervising the horses may come into contact with any other horses during the period of supervision.
- d) Any authorised visitor to the isolation premises must wear the protective clothing provided throughout the visit.
- e) When no staff are on duty, the premises must be securely locked to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons.
- f) The isolation period for all isolated horses shall be deemed to start from the time of entry of the last horse. Horses must not leave the premises during the isolation period except with the permission of the Official Veterinarian and APHA – SSC, Carlisle .
- g) Isolated horses must have no contact with any horses of lower health status during the isolation period.
- h) The supervising Official Veterinarian should visit the premises when the horses enter at the start of the isolation period and at the end of the isolation period. At least one unannounced visit should be

carried out during the isolation period.

- i) A health record should be kept of each isolated horse during the isolation period. This record should be available for inspection by the Official Veterinarian or VO.
- j) The operator should report any illnesses or other problems to the supervising Official Veterinarian. Where there is any cause for concern about the export certification of the consignment, APHA - SSC, Carlisle should be consulted.
- k) If the VO/ Official Veterinarian is not satisfied that the conditions of approval are being met, APHA - SSC, Carlisle should be notified.

6. **Veterinary Supervision of the PEQ / isolation premises**

Paragraph III. b) refers. In order to certify that the animals were isolated under supervision, the Official Veterinarian must visit the isolation premises at the start and end of the pre-export isolation period and on at least one occasion during the isolation period.

7. **Laboratory Tests**

Paragraph IV. d) table, if applicable. Blood samples must be sent to the APHA laboratory, Weybridge allowing sufficient time for the receipt of results before the proposed date of export.

Paragraph IV. d) (i) refers. The results for the South African pre-export test for African Horse Sickness does not have to be attached to the 382EHC.

Important: Laboratory reports (or copies) of all the tests carried out must be endorsed (initialled, stamped and dated) by the certifying Official Veterinarian and attached the certificate, as required by paragraph IV (c).

8. **Disease Clearance**

Notifiable disease - country/area clearance

Paragraph III. e), f), g) if applicable, paragraph IV. d) if applicable, may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade, in Carlisle, on form 618NDC.

Notifiable and non-notifiable disease - premises clearance

Paragraph III g) refers. Where the OV has no direct knowledge of the status of any premises where the horse has been resident during the previous 2 months, the OV should seek a declaration from the owner/representative of the owner including details of all premises on which the animal resided during this period. The OV may then seek a written declaration from the owner/manager of the premises, and from the veterinary surgeon responsible for those premises, that the diseases listed at paragraph III. g) did not occur on these premises during the specified period. In case of difficulty in obtaining support documentation, the local Animal Health Office should be consulted.

In some cases, it may be possible to provide a 618NDC to cover the notifiable diseases in paragraph III. d) for residencies in a scheduled MS, based on when the disease was last reported in the given scheduled MS. If this is not possible, the paragraph may be signed on the basis of additional official certification (e.g. the

model certificates at Annex A and B, which may need to be built upon as necessary) issued by the country of origin, and in addition, the EU import certificate for horses which originate in the Republic of South Africa.

9. **Vaccinations**

Vaccines, where used, must be given at least 14 days prior to export.

Important: Proof/evidence that the required vaccinations have been Carried out must be attached to the certificate if that is not available from the accompanying passport, as required by paragraph IV (c).

10. **Treatment**

Paragraphs V. c) and d) refer. **Treatment against ticks** - there is no product at present licensed for treatment against ticks in horses in the UK. OV's may decide to use a product licensed for other use, exercising their clinical judgment on the 'cascade principle'. OV's should demonstrate due care in administering medicinal products outwith the recommendations of the data sheet, and should seek the manufacturer's advice as appropriate. OV's are advised to obtain the written consent of the owner/agent of the owner before administering products outwith the data sheet.

11. **Additional documentation**

Additional documentation to fulfil Section VIII (Transport Information) and IX (Acknowledgement by the Consignor or his Authorised Agent) of the import permit -

http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/quarantine/quarantine_ipab/quarantine_ipab_ihea/files/export_certificate_for_horse_permanent_imported.pdf

A proforma for these is at Annexes A and B of this guidance.

12. **Transport to Hong Kong**

Horses should be transported from United Kingdom to Hong Kong either on a direct non-stop flight, or with refuelling stops or changes of aircraft en route taking place only in countries approved by Hong Kong. If in doubt exporters are advised to contact the Hong Kong veterinary authorities concerning the proposed route.

13. **Welfare**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency:

Welfare in Transport Team
Centre for International Trade
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street, Carlisle
CA3 8DX
Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301
E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

14. **Disclaimer**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk

PERMANENT EXPORT OF HORSES FROM THE UK TO HONG KONG

ANNEX A

MUST ACCOMPANY 382EHC, 382CON & 382SUP

TRANSPORT INFORMATION [This section is to be certified either by the same official veterinarian who has certified the foregoing section or by an authorised transportation agent]

- (a) The vehicle for the transport of the horse to the port of exit was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant and was treated with an officially approved insecticide to my satisfaction immediately prior to the loading of the animal.
- (b) During the transportation, after due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge the horse will have no contact with animals not of the same certified health status.
- (c) After due enquiry and to the best of my knowledge procedures are in place to ensure that the containers that the horses will be transported in and loading facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use.
- (d) The containers meet the design and species requirements recommendations of the International Air Transport Association.

Signature:..... Date:.....

Name:.....

Capacity..... Company:.....

Address:.....

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Tel. No.:..... Fax:

Email:.....

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ANNEX B

MUST ACCOMPANY 382EHC, 382CON & 382SUP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE CONSIGNOR OR HIS AUTHORISED AGENT

I,..... (name) hereby acknowledge the following:

- (a) In the event of the horse identified in SECTION I of this certificate, arriving in Hong Kong without the correct certification or in any other way not having met these requirements, the horse and any in-contact horse or equipment may be detained in isolation, exported at the importer's expense or destroyed and disposed of at the importer's expense.
- (b) During isolation in Hong Kong the horse may be subjected to any testing or any treatment prescribed by the Hong Kong Government at the consignor's expense.
- (c) If the horse fails a test or shows signs of disease that horse and any in-contact horses may be, at the consignor's expense, detained in isolation for further testing and/or observation or exported or destroyed and disposed of without recompense.

Signature:..... Date:.....

Name:.....

Capacity..... Company:.....

Address:.....

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Tel. No.:..... Fax:

Email:.....

Other contact details in event of an emergency outside normal working hours:.....

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All pages must be endorsed with the certifying Government veterinarian's signature and official stamp using a different colour ink to the paper and print.